CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

April 13, 1945.

Dear Charlie:

Thank you for your letter and the news of the vps you are working with. Thanks also, for offering to send some of it on to me for testing agains the chromosome 5 deficiency. Unfortunately, I am not able to take on any more work at all. It is a case now of discarding some of my plans for too much has turned up for me to be able to handle all of it myself. I have no assistant and it is something of a job to tend to all the details. It is still lots of fun but there is also considerable pressure. The past few years have been too pressing and must be cut to some extent. I may be getting old or just getting tired!

It was bad news that you did not get the Guggenheim fellowship. I suspect that you were a little too honest in your request in that you stated you needed to get away. I thought of this at the time that I read over your application and wondered if it would not work against you. Handling people is a queer matter. A twist or a phrase can do so much even though the situation remains the same. I dont know of any source of funds for traveling expenses unless a University will offer a grant for a special purpose. The trip to California for me was paid for by Stanford but I went there for a special job. You might write Andy and ask if he has some way of getting a similar grant from Cal. Tech. Without meaning to detract from that place, I honestly believe that they could give you very little of what you are seeking. Andy just has not advanced in his thinking at all and is still back in the old days in much of his work. Except at Columbia and Texas, genetics is not being spectacular in any place. It does not seem to be doing much. The Stanford group is excellent, in fact, exceptional but their work is of a special nature. This place is not doing too much and has suffered a drought of ideas and a reduced personell. The University of California was pathetic.

You asked if recessives that might be due to deficiencies could be detected cytologically. In most cases, I doubt if we would see the deficiency. Loss of a small segment, unless terminal, would be a devil of a job to see. A large loss is easily detected but it is usually accompanied by other signs of deficiency. I have been working on a number of new mutants coming from the broken chromosome mechanism and have isolated a number. Have 12 yg mutants and all tested so far have been allelic to yg-2. I also have some variegates which look like inactivations of loci simulating deficiencies. This material has just come along and will get tested this summer. I am not planning on seeing deficiencies in cases where I suspect a deficiency is present. It may be just too hard.

Stadler is coming to N.Y. tomorrow. I have not seen him since I left Missouri in 1941. Both of us will probably have changed plenty in the mean time. Marcus invited me in to dinner at his house (Stadler is staying there) for tomorrow night.

Let me know if there is anything that I could do to help you out on the leave of absence situation. I have thought some of coming out to Minnesota for a visit to look over possibilities for fungi work there. I am convinced that there is an excellent future in the cytology of fungi and have some definite plans for continuing this work. Will have to combat the lure of corn completely or it wont get done. It is quite a struggle for problems in both are so intriguing. I dont know anything about the department of pathology there but expect that they have facilities and loss of experience that would be valuable.

With best wishes to you and good luck,

Regards,

Bart